



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO –
Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 24, 2003

Note: The last situation report was dated July 30, 2003.

BACKGROUND

In August 1998, an armed attack against the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GDRC) by the Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD) opposition group sparked violence that involved five countries in the region. During July-August 1999, the GDRC; the governments of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe; and the main Congolese opposition groups RCD and the Uganda-backed Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) signed the Lusaka Peace Accords. The Lusaka agreement required signatories to agree to a cease-fire and to create the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD), a mechanism for all groups to discuss peace implementation. The U.N. Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC) began in November 1999. MONUC monitors the cease-fire and the withdrawal of foreign forces, and assists in disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation.

The ICD concluded on April 2, 2003, in Sun City, South Africa, with an agreement to establish a government of national unity and a transition constitution. President Joseph Kabila will remain in office for a transitional period of approximately two years, to be followed by democratic elections. On April 4, 2003, President Kabila promulgated the transition constitution. Members of the RCD, the MLC, other opposition groups, and civil society are now sharing four vice-presidential positions and other key government posts.

Insecurity in rural and urban areas has restricted access to agricultural land, decreasing harvest yields and contributing to the food security crisis. Lack of access to traditional markets has further discouraged farming. Poverty is widespread and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting by different parties in the conflict. Although President Kabila has attempted to address these difficulties, the Congolese economy faces numerous constraints, and insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. According to the U.N., approximately 20 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to chronic insecurity and the potential for conflict.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	3,413,000 UN OCHA (August 2003)
Refugees from the DRC	389,500 UNHCR (July 2003)
Refugees in the DRC	286,770 UN OCHA (August 2003)

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC.....\$31,888,855
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC\$77,626,910

CURRENT SITUATION

Progress of the DRC Transitional Government.

On August 16, active armed groups in Ituri District met for the fourth Consultation Committee. The United Congolese Patriots (UPC), the People's Front for Democracy in the Congo (FPDC), the Party of Unity and Safeguard of Integrity in the Congo (PUSIC), the Congolese People's Armed Forces (FAPC), and the Front of Nationalists and Integrationists (FNI) agreed to deploy units of the integrated national police and troops of the restructured and integrated national armed forces. In September, the new forces' leadership issued an arrest warrant for three high-ranking RCD-Goma soldiers who boycotted a swearing-in ceremony. While the soldiers have indicated that they will report to Kinshasa, the unified national military confirmed their absence on October 16, and stated that RCD-Goma may need to propose new candidates to fill their positions.

On October 10, after the fifth Consultation Committee, Ituri's armed groups agreed to provide MONUC with technical information regarding their numbers and locations, with a view to their eventual cantonment. According to a MONUC official, the cantonment will take place in tandem with the deployment of the Ituri Brigade from Bunia to locations throughout the district.

MONUC assumes peacekeeping duties in Bunia.

Due to increased ethnic violence in the northeastern Ituri District, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) authorized the deployment of an 8,850 person French-led Interim Emergency Multinational Force (MNF). The MNF deployed in June 2003 to secure Bunia and reinforce the MONUC presence. On July 16, 180 Bangladeshi soldiers arrived as the first group of a planned 3,800 member Ituri Brigade. The remaining troops arrived in August, and, on September 1, MONUC officially replaced the MNF.

On July 28, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1493, increasing MONUC's authorized strength from 8,700 to 10,800 troops, and provided it with a stronger mandate. Under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, UNSC 1493 enables MONUC to use "all necessary means" to protect the civilian population and humanitarian workers in Ituri District and North and South Kivu provinces. In addition, UNSC 1493 extends MONUC's mandate to July 30, 2004.

MONUC moves to secure Bunia and beyond.

On September 15, under "Operation Bunia Without Arms," MONUC began to rid Bunia of all weapons by carrying out house-to-house searches. On September 16, U.N. troops confiscated a stockpile of arms and ammunition from the headquarters of the opposition party UPC, triggering violent demonstrations. Tensions increased when UPC supporters accused MONUC of firing on protestors, while MONUC contended that their gunfire was in self-defense. MONUC arrested 100 people, but released all detainees who agreed to hand in their weapons.

On October 6, U.N. officials reported that ethnic Lendu attacked the ethnic Hema village of Katchele, 100 km north of Bunia in Ituri District, killing 65 Congolese civilians. Between October 10 and 19, four companies of 150 to 250 MONUC troops deployed to Bule, 5 km from Katchele, as well as to Iga Barrier, Bogoro, and Marabo, villages 25 to 90 km outside of Bunia. In addition, MONUC began infrastructure projects in Ituri, repairing the Bunia airport and the road linking Bunia to Beni, North Kivu Province.

Armed opposition groups continue negotiations in Bunia.

On September 23, two rival armed opposition groups in Bunia, the ethnic Hema UPC and the ethnic Lendu FNI, reportedly agreed to allow for the free circulation of people and commodities in the region. A new U.N. permanent liaison office facilitates negotiations with the rival groups in Bunia. When a UPC member was found dead, both groups met and asked MONUC to begin an independent investigation. On September 29, UPC and FNI members organized a joint march through Bunia to persuade residents that freedom of movement will be respected. One major armed opposition group, the FAPC, has yet to participate.

On October 1, under MONUC mediation, the RCD-Goma and the Mai-Mai opposition groups signed an agreement to cease hostilities. Both groups agreed to an immediate ceasefire, free circulation of persons and goods, and the creation of a commission to monitor the agreement.

Decreased harvests in the east and northeast regions.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that the second-season harvest, which began in August, is expected to be significantly less than last year in the eastern and northeastern regions due to the escalation of violence, mainly in Ituri District. In mid-June, the FAO and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) jointly approved an emergency operation to assist 483,000 of the most food deficient residents, including IDPs and returnees from neighboring countries. The emergency operation, scheduled

to continue until March 2004, will provide 46,346 metric tons (MT) of commodities.

Fighting near Butembo, North Kivu Province, displaces thousands.

On August 12, USAID/OFDA NGO partner German Agro Action (GAA) reported that persistent fighting between the Mai-Mai and the RCD-Kisangani Liberation Movement (RCD-K/ML) opposition groups displaced thousands from South Lubero, 60 km south of Butembo. The drought, which adversely affected agricultural production last year, has further aggravated food security. In August, GAA distributed a monthly food ration to 1,066 IDP families in Butembo, but insecurity continued in the surrounding area.

Violence and displacement in South Kivu Province.

On August 13, approximately 98 residents of South Kivu fled to Burundi, after fighting between the RCD-Goma and Mai-Mai renewed in eastern DRC. A U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official reported that 11,000 refugees, from the areas of Bibokoboko, Cimuka, Bumbembe, Sange, Rusabaga, and Mutarare, were at a transit camp in Cishemere, in Burundi's Cibitoke Province. Another 3,000 DRC refugees are at the Gasorwe refugee camp in Burundi's northern Musinga Province, after reportedly fleeing RCD-Goma and Mai-Mai fighting in Uvira, South Kivu Province. Most refugees have been at Cishemere and Gasorwe for several months.

On October 22, a U.N. escorted humanitarian convoy left South Kivu's capital of Bukavu to deliver 20 tons of relief supplies to Mwenza, approximately 132 km southwest. Guarded by 36 U.N. peacekeepers and two attack helicopters, the seven day mission is the U.N.'s first attempt to extend its South Kivu presence beyond Bukavu.

The town of Fataki in Ituri District is destroyed.

In July and August, ethnic Lendu opposition members reportedly killed 200 people and abducted 237 others from villages in the Fataki area. An estimated 100 ethnic Hema residents were later deported to "labor camps," where prisoners are forced to provide agricultural labor. During a September 5 reconnaissance mission, MONUC confirmed that town of Fataki was destroyed and abandoned. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), a USAID/OFDA partner, distributed high-energy biscuits, plastic sheeting, and first-aid medication to nearly 18,000 IDPs in nearby Bule and 5,000 IDPs in surrounding villages.

USAID/OFDA Responds in North Kivu Province and Ituri District.

Between July 22 and 29, USAID/OFDA's DRC Program Officer visited sites along the northern axis of Beni, Oicha, and Eringeti in North Kivu Province. Approximately 125,000 IDPs from southern Ituri have lived along the axis in semi-permanent sites since June 2002. At a government center in Eringeti's Mbazi site, home to nearly 10,000 people, USAID/OFDA NGO partner Merlin is providing health services. In Butembo, USAID/OFDA's DRC Program Officer visited IDP camps along the

Kanyabayonga-Beni axis, where the largest security concern is increased RCD-Goma violence. GAA, the only international NGO in Butembo, is receiving funding from USAID/OFDA for a food security program that benefits 28,000 IDP families living in host communities.

Between August 18 and 25, USAID/OFDA's DRC Program Officer visited projects implemented by NGO partners GAA and Save the Children Fund (SCF/UK) in Ituri District. GAA distributes non-food items to IDPs and returnees, concentrating on areas outside of Bunia, while USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF provides for IDPs in Bunia town. Most non-food distributions are in the rural Mahagi and Aru areas of northern Ituri and in neighborhoods outside of Bunia, where security permits greater access to IDPs than in southern and central Ituri. GAA and UNICEF have distributed 4,164 non-food kits in northern Ituri and 5,227 kits in neighborhoods on the outskirts of Bunia. In August, GAA began to rehabilitate the road linking Bunia to Kasenye, one of the main trade routes to Uganda. This labor-intensive project generates employment for men in the area south of Bunia.

SCF/UK continues to implement a USAID/OFDA-funded project in Beni and Ituri to reunite children with their families. To date, 1,143 children have been reunited and 1,835 remain with host families. In addition, SCF/UK has begun the process of reuniting 38 Congolese children currently in Uganda with their families in the DRC.

WFP reaches previously inaccessible areas in Ituri.

According to WFP and GAA, humanitarian assistance is reaching previously inaccessible populations in Ituri District. On September 8, WFP distributed food in the village of Iga-Barriere, 25 km north of Bunia. A GAA team reached Songolo, 35 km south of Bunia, where they distributed food assistance to 5,500 people on September 10. These villages had been inaccessible for more than a year due to armed conflict. In mid-September, WFP opened a Bunia field office.

MSF calls for intervention in Katanga Province.

On September 11, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) released a report calling for greater humanitarian intervention in southeastern Katanga Province. The report cites incidents of fighting between armed groups and the displacement of thousands of people. The report highlighted Malemba Nkulu, Kikondja, Kitenge, Mukubu, and Mukanga as particularly affected areas. In August, a regional 2,500 case outbreak of cholera killed 100 residents. On September 30, MSF confirmed that the outbreak had not yet peaked.

Persistent cholera in Kasai Oriental Province.

Despite efforts by relief agencies, a recurring outbreak of cholera continues to affect Kasai Oriental Province and the city of Mbuji-Mayi in eastern DRC. According to an international NGO, 5,000 cases have been reported since

September 2002, resulting in 263 deaths. Two-thirds of reported cases are in Mbuji-Mayi, while one-third is from the interior of the province. Outbreaks normally last three months, but inadequate latrines and poor access to potable water are prolonging the epidemic.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 6, 2003, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC due to continued fighting since August 1998. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$31.8 million in emergency assistance to the DRC in FY 2003. USAID/OFDA provided emergency assistance in the food security and nutrition sectors, contributed to emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation, and supported agricultural programs for vulnerable populations.

USAID/OFDA's projects and programs target the geographic areas with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates, and encourage implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permits. USAID/OFDA supports programs that build local capacity to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods. USAID/OFDA supports two Program Officers in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

During FY 2003, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) authorized 42,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP, valued at \$36.7 million. Following a Joint Inter-Agency Assessment Mission, WFP launched a \$38.2 million Emergency Operation (EMOP) scheduled to continue until March 2004. The EMOP is expected to assist 483,000 conflict-affected people in northern and eastern DRC.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) provided \$4.4 million in FY 2003 for a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. USAID/OTI supports MONUC's Radio Okapi (through Fondation Hirondelle and Search for Common Ground) to increase availability and access to balanced information on humanitarian assistance, the peace process, and demobilization and reintegration. Through a sub-grants program with CARE, USAID/OTI provides assistance to local and national groups, and encourages support of the Lusaka Peace Accords and the Ituri Interim Administration.

During FY 2003, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided nearly \$4.6 million to assist refugees in the DRC. Of that total, State/PRM provided \$3.8 million to UNHCR, including \$300,000 for children's assistance programs. State/PRM also provided \$200,000 to WFP for refugee feeding programs and more than \$641,000 to the IRC for assistance to Angolan refugees in the DRC.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC – COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2003			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
AAH/USA	Health, water and sanitation, nutrition, and food security	South Kivu and Katanga	\$2,661,286
Air Serv Intl.	Air transport	Eastern DRC	\$3,061,639
CARE	Food security	Maniema	\$589,446
Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food security, railroad security	South Kivu and Katanga	\$2,534,521
GAA	Food security	Ituri District and North Kivu	\$3,730,351
IMC	Health	South Kivu	\$696,022
IRC	Health, water and sanitation	South Kivu and Katanga	\$3,598,528
MERLIN	Health	North Kivu	\$3,697,660
Première Urgence	Food security	Ituri District and North Kivu	\$1,089,008
SCF/UK	Geological hazards and child reunification	North Kivu, Ituri District	\$423,347
Solidarités	Food security, water and sanitation	North Kivu	\$778,000
UMCOR	Food security	Katanga	\$718,037
UN FAO	Food security	Countrywide	\$700,000
UN OCHA	Coordination and geological hazards	Countrywide	\$1,680,000
UNICEF	Health, water and sanitation, and non food items	Countrywide	\$3,271,000
WFP	Air transport of emergency food	Northern Katanga	\$1,000,000
World Vision	Health, nutrition, and food security	North Kivu	\$300,000
Logistics	Air transport	North Kivu	\$485,475
Administrative Costs		Kinshasa and Washington DC	\$874,535
TOTAL FY 2003 USAID/OFDA.....			\$31,888,855
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	42,870MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$36,746,950
TOTAL FY 2003 USAID/FFP.....			\$36,746,950
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
Fondation Hironnelle, CARE, Search for Common Ground	Small grants initiative to support the Lusaka Peace Accords, support for MONUC's Radio Okapi	Countrywide	\$4,400,000
TOTAL FY 2003 USAID/OTI.....			\$4,400,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IRC	Assistance to Angolan Refugees in DRC	Kimpese, Bas Congo	\$641,105
UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees	Countrywide	\$3,450,000
UNHCR	Assistance to Refugee Children	Countrywide	\$300,000
WFP	Assistance to Refugee Feeding Programs	Countrywide	\$200,000
TOTAL FY 2003 STATE/PRM¹			\$4,591,105



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¹ State/PRM figures for FY 2003 do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and ICRC Africa-wide programs.

*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html